GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:897
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
PADMA AWARDS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the basis on which the Padma Awards are given; and

(b) the composition of the Committee which decides such awards?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a) & (b): Padma awards, namely, 'Padma Vibhushan' 'Padma Bhushan' and 'Padma Shri' are awarded for 'exceptional and distinguished service', 'distinguished service of a high order' and 'distinguished service' respectively, in any field of activity. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for the awards. It is the usual practice to invite recommendations from all State/UT Governments, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan awardees and selected Institutes of Excellence every year. In addition, recommendations are also received from several sources like Governors, Chief Minister, Central/State Ministers, MPs, MLAs and various other private organizations/bodies/ individuals etc. All these nominations are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, which comprises Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary, Secretary to the President (ex-officio members) and four to six eminent persons nominated by the Prime Minister every year. The recommendations made by the Awards Committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President for approval. After obtaining approval of the President, the awards are announced on the eve of Republic day.